

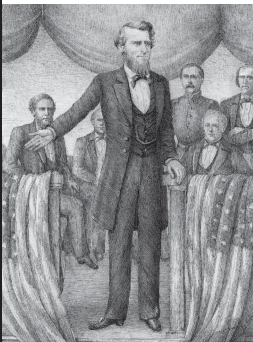
A SESQUICENTENNIAL MOMENT

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JUNE 15 - 21, 1863

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY,
WEST VIRGINIA!**

**One-hundred-and-fifty
years ago, on June 20, 1863,
West Virginia became the
country's 35th state.**



Inaugural festivities in Wheeling included the singing of “E Pluribus Unum,” the playing of the “Star Spangled Banner,” the firing of 35 guns, and fireworks.

The *Wheeling Intelligencer* said, “Flags, of all sizes, were as thick in the city almost as the locusts in the suburbs. The display of bunting was most attractive and reflected much patriotism of the people.”

Speaking in front of the makeshift capitol, the Linsly Institute, newly elected Gov. Arthur Boreman promised to help quash the rebellion.

“We have done much and suffered much already, but we will do more, and suffer on for years, if need be, rather than consent to a dissolution of the Union,” Boreman said.

Referring to West Virginia as “the child of the rebellion,” he added: “Today after many long and weary years of insult and injustice ... we have the proud satisfaction of proclaiming to those around us that we are a separate State in the Union.”

This sesquicentennial moment is brought to you by the West Virginia Sesquicentennial Commission and the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, Archives and History Section.

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